

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 24 have been amended and claims 29-31 have been added. Support for the amended features recited in claims 1, 6 and 24 can be found in Applicant's Fig. 2, for example, where only a single charger is used.

Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ito et al. (Ito), U.S. Patent No. 5,970,285. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ito fails to disclose a process cartridge, wherein only a single charger is used in the process cartridge, and the charger is located at a first section of four sections, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 6 and 24.

Ito discloses an image forming apparatus with a fur brush 6 and a magnetic brush 2 (Fig. 1). Accordingly, Ito uses two chargers and thus fails to disclose only using a single charger, as recited in claims 1, 6 and 24. Furthermore, neither the fur brush 6 nor the magnetic brush 2 is a scorotron charger, as recited in claims 29-31.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination  
Amendment Transmittal

Date: March 15, 2006

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